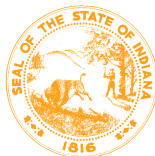


Terry A. Goodin

Indiana State Representative, District 66



Summer, 2001

Dear Friends:

The 2001 long session of the Indiana General Assembly has ended with the passage of a new state budget and several other important pieces of legislation. I am pleased we completed our work on time in a bipartisan manner.

The new two-year state budget includes increased funding for education and other important programs while avoiding a general tax increase. I'm especially pleased by the funding for CHOICE, the state's effort to provide home health care for the elderly and disabled. Through CHOICE, we enable people to receive the care they need in a familiar environment around friends and family. The new biennial state budget increases funding for CHOICE by \$6 million a year in each of the next two fiscal years. That means close to \$50 million in state funding is committed to providing quality health care for people in the comfort of their home. I would like to see more funding dedicated for CHOICE in the future. It is good to be able to provide more money for a program that has proven to work.

We passed several other laws that will benefit our state in a variety of areas, including health care, education, crime, election reform and environmental protection. We made improvements to our license branch operations and passed legislation that will protect consumers from annoying telephone calls with the establishment of a do-not-call list. I have described many of these new laws in the next few pages.

In addition, you will find a map of the new District #66. We are required to redraw the district boundaries every 10 years due to population shifts. I welcome those of you who are new to the district and look forward to working with you in the coming months to make Indiana a better place to live.

Please contact my office if you have additional concerns or questions about state government. You may e-mail me at H66@ai.org or call toll-free at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

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New budget increases school support, local development

Going into the 2001 legislative session, many observers felt that a sluggish economy would make it difficult to enact a biennial state budget without either passing a general tax increase or cutting funding for critical areas like public education. However, the budget bill that became law continues our record of avoiding general tax increases, while providing additional state support to our schools, health care and local projects.

The final version of House Enrolled Act 1001 enables the state to increase support for public schools across Indiana by an average of 3.5 percent each of the next two fiscal years, with minimum guarantees built in to help schools avoid cutting programs and personnel. Funding for higher education was increased by an average of 3.2 percent each year.

The budget allowed the Crothersville Community schools and the Muncie Community schools to participate in Project Prime Time, which provides additional state funding to assure that class sizes remain smaller in earlier grades. Previously these two school corporations were excluded from Project Prime Time under state regulations. Additionally, children who turn five years of age by July 1 will be able to attend kindergarten classes that fall through a provision in the budget. Formerly, a child had to be five by June 1.

Services and local development

The budget includes additional funding for the CHOICE program that provides in-home care services for the elderly and disabled, as well as Build Indiana Fund support for research and technology, community wastewater and drinking water grants, airport development and improvements to voting systems.

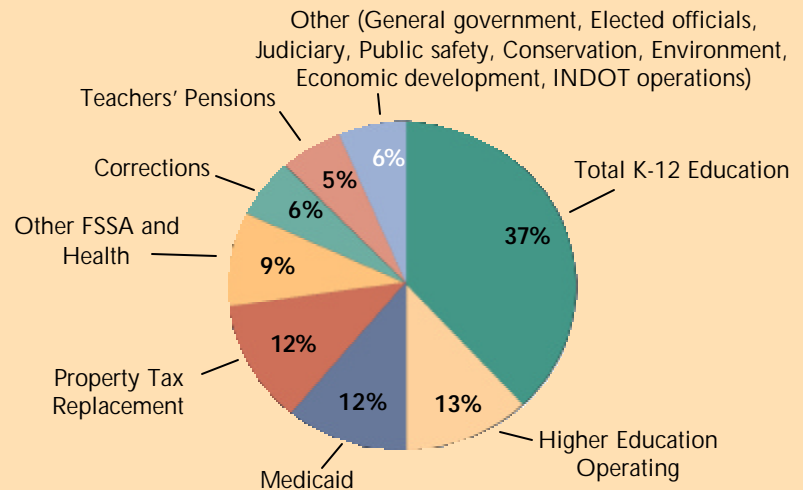
Tax relief

It was disappointing that we were unable to provide the levels of tax relief that were included in past state budgets, but I am pleased that we were able to extend the life of the homestead credit at 10 percent and maintain the earned income tax credit that assists working families on lower incomes.

Businesses and farms will receive an income tax credit on personal property beginning in 2003, and mobile homes have been changed to be treated as real property with similar deductions. The budget bill continues to fund a statewide property tax relief program that now takes about 16 percent off all property taxes. When coupled with the 10 percent homestead credit, that translates to savings of around 26 percent.

In closing, considering the fiscal restraints facing legislators going into the 2001 session, I feel this budget is a major accomplishment.

Spending highlights from the 2001-2003 budget



Goodin bills benefit veterans and victims of crime



REP. GOODIN STUDIES
LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE
CHAMBER.

As a freshman in the Legislature this year, I was pleased to have authored and sponsored several bills that were signed into law by the Governor. While not every piece of legislation that I worked on made it through the process, I look forward to continuing the effort next year.

House Enrolled Act 1636 addresses the problem that occurs when someone pays off a mortgage and later learns that the lender still has a lien on the property. This law gives a title insurance company the ability to release the mortgage given to secure a loan of up to \$1 million on behalf of a mortgagor or mortgagee.

Two other laws that I helped author relate to crime. HEA 1065 ensures that the victim of a sex offense by a juvenile offender is notified upon the offender's release or escape from the Department of Correction. HEA 1106 makes identity deception – which is obtaining, transferring or using the identity of another person without the other's consent and with the intent to harm or defraud – a Class D felony.

I was also able to include several amendments into legislation. One particular amendment was added to Senate Enrolled Act 158. This legislation makes prisoners of war and disabled veterans eligible for the Golden Hoosier Passport, a pass to Indiana's state parks, museums and memorials. Under this law POW's will have free admission and disabled veterans will be admitted at half price.

Finally, through Build Indiana Funds I was able to bring \$500,000 back to our district for local development.



License Branch improvements, economic development and a tough stand on crime

Patrons and employees of license branches will be pleased with changes enacted by the Legislature this year. Those changes should make the process of going to the license branch more efficient.

House Enrolled Act 1170 contains the following changes: Drivers will be able to renew their licenses through the mail and over the Internet, and will be able to register their vehicles in any county. Vehicle registration deadlines will be staggered and come twice a month to reduce lines. Additionally, the state will have to conduct a public hearing before closing any license branch.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine, more commonly known as meth, is a drug that has created increasing problems throughout our state, in rural as well as urban areas. Since the chemicals used to make the drug can be found on most farms, there has been an increased occurrence of thefts and other crimes in those locations.

Through House Enrolled Act 1892, law enforcement officials and courts will gain the tools they need to fight the rising meth problems by placing the penalties for possession and manufacturing the drug on a par with those for cocaine.

Economic Development

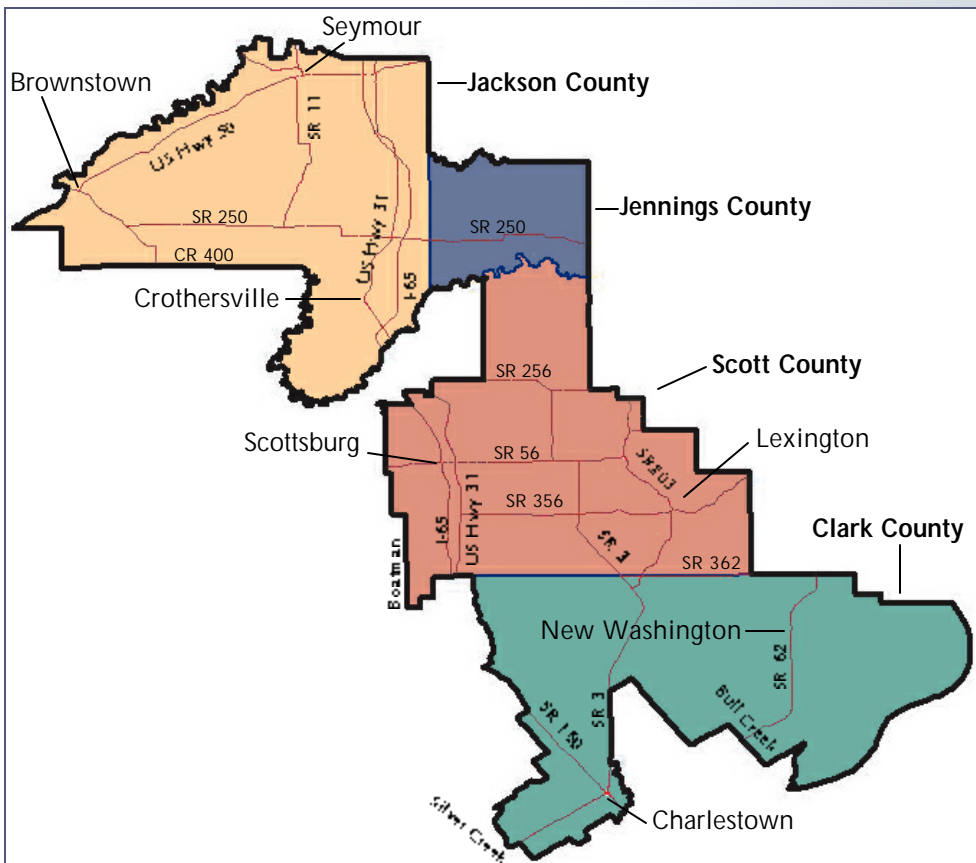
The major economic development initiative to come out of the 2001 legislative session is contained in House Enrolled Act 1962, which creates the **Skills 2016 Job Training Program**.

Workers already on the job will be able to get access to additional instruction to gain new skills, while those people just entering the workforce will be able to take part in improved industrial and building trades programs offered through such locations as Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University.

Since 1997, Hoosiers on moderate and lower incomes have had the chance to use **Individual Development Accounts (IDA)**. By setting aside some of their own money, people in the program can obtain state matching funds to help them own a home, start or invest in a small business or send a child to college. House Enrolled Act 2130 makes that program permanent and expands eligibility requirements to those earning 175 percent of the federal income poverty level.

Finally, through Senate Enrolled Act 160, the state will begin to form a comprehensive economic development policy to help improve the quality of life in rural Indiana.

The new look of District 66



During this year's session you may have heard about redistricting in the news. After each census, the Indiana General Assembly is required by law to redraw House, Senate and Congressional district boundaries according to population changes.

Each district must have 60,000 people, which means that as the population moves to or from various parts of the state, boundaries shift to reflect that change. District boundaries are very complicated, and it took months of effort and plenty of debate among legislators. In the end, however, I feel that the district lines we have drawn are as fair as possible.

I look forward to serving those of you who are new to our district. Please contact me if you have questions about the district or any other matters.



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Privacy from telemarketers and health care reform

**Stay informed about these
and other issues online with
Representative Goodin**



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In 2001, lawmakers took steps to help reduce the interruption of telemarketers calling you at home. Through House Enrolled Act 1222, you will be able to have your name placed on a "do not call" list that will **prohibit most solicitors from contacting you via the telephone**. To be placed on the list, contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about the **Telephone Privacy List** at 1-888-834-9969.

Health Care

In the 2001 legislative session, lawmakers were able to build on the reforms passed in recent years that grant patients a larger voice in decisions affecting their health care.

Senate Enrolled Act 365 gives patients a chance to appeal care decisions for all accident and sickness insurance coverage to an outside panel of medical professionals. SEA 310 requires insurers and providers to use easily understandable language to describe procedures and diseases, and

SEA 311 requires insurance companies to pay so-called clean claims – those properly submitted and containing all needed information – in a timely fashion.

Disabled Hoosiers will be able to make substantial strides toward achieving self-sufficiency and preserving health care coverage through HEA 1950, which establishes a statewide buy-in program that would assure Medicaid coverage for workers with disabilities.

Environmental Protection

HEA 1967 allows local fire departments to recover the costs from cleaning up hazardous waste spills by charging those costs to the parties responsible for the spills. Through SEA 273, businesses can obtain tax credits to help clean up former hazardous waste sites known as brownfields. HEA 2042 creates a program to provide state assistance for people interested in closing abandoned oil and gas wells and cleaning up the sites.